



Transportation Update April – June 2002

The **2001 Traffic Count Report** (June 2002) is the third of our annual reports to include counts taken by Harza Northeast Inc. a consultant to the PDCTC. The 2001 report includes counts at 259 locations with 43 state road sections, 123 county road sections, and 93 local road sections. It is available online at www.dutchessny.gov/2001tcr.pdf. Eoin Wrafter (845) 486-3600.

In early May the **Census Bureau released information about the nation's urbanized areas based on data from the 2000 Census** that showed continued growth in Dutchess County. In 1980, the Poughkeepsie UA included all or part of the cities of Beacon and Poughkeepsie, and the towns of Fishkill, East Fishkill, Hyde Park, LaGrange, Pleasant Valley, Poughkeepsie, and Wappinger. By 1990, the UA had crossed the Hudson River to take in the Town of Lloyd in Ulster County. The recent designations combine the existing Poughkeepsie and Newburgh urbanized areas into a single large urbanized area, known as the ***Poughkeepsie—Newburgh, NY Urbanized Area***, that includes more than 351,000 people in Dutchess, Orange, and Ulster counties. In Dutchess the new boundary includes portions of the towns of Beekman and Union Vale for the first time.

In addition, the population in Kingston (Ulster County) and its adjacent towns exceeded 50,000, making it one of the three new urbanized areas in New York State (the others are Middletown and Saratoga Springs). Although the implications of these changes are not fully known at this time, we expect some changes in federal highway and transit funding. Ulster County and the City of Kingston will also need to establish a transportation planning process similar to Dutchess and Orange counties, which includes the preparation of a long-range transportation plan and a capital program. There is more information about the new urbanized area designations available from both the FHWA and the FTA at <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/census/1> and www.fta.dot.gov/library/planning/census/faq.html.

The PDCTC and the Harlem Valley Partnership have completed work on the **Route 22 Corridor Management Plan**. The major plan recommendations were presented at a public meeting in early May, and copies of the final plan will be available by September. The Harlem Valley Partnership and the towns of Amenia, Dover, North East and Pawling are now working with NYSDOT to develop a Limited Access Overlay Zone. Kealy Salomon (845) 486-3600 or Michael Haggerty (845) 877-3738

The **Maybrook Multi-Modal Corridor Study** has been substantially completed. The study recommends the construction of a 19 mile paved shared use trailway from Hopewell Junction to the City of Poughkeepsie and then continuing across the Mid-Hudson Bridge through the Town of Lloyd utilizing the Hudson Valley Trailway, continuing adjacent to State Route 299 (Off-road) through the Town and Village New Paltz linking with the Wallkill Valley Rail Trail. *For more information contact Russell Robbins, NYSDOT-Region 8 (845) 431-5723 or email at rrobbins@gw.dot.state.ny.us*

MTA/Metro-North has substantially completed the construction of a new parking deck and the renovation of the walkway at the **Poughkeepsie Train Station**. The \$18 million project was funded by a combination of federal, state, MTA and local dollars, and is consistent with the 1998 *Poughkeepsie Transportation Strategy* developed cooperatively by Poughkeepsie and the PDCTC.

NYSDOT continues to modify and close the at-grade crossings along the **Taconic State Parkway**. In mid-2001 5 intersections were partially or completely closed in East Fishkill and LaGrange. Additional closings are planned for Clinton, Stanford, and Milan. For more information visit www.dot.state.ny.us/tsp.html.

The **National Transit Institute (NTI)** recently held two training seminars covering **Public Involvement in Transportation Decision-Making** and the **Metropolitan Transportation Planning Process**. The June seminars, held in Albany and Syracuse respectively, brought transportation professionals from across the state together to discuss innovative techniques used in transportation planning. Some of the themes covered in both seminars included: establishing a visioning process to identify goals and objectives for a region; instituting quantifiable measures of effectiveness (MOE) to evaluate the progress of the transportation program; the importance of building a consensus among stakeholders; and, the necessity of having an open and inclusive public involvement process. Information on future seminars may be found at the NTI website: www.NTIONLINE.com. *Mark Debald (845) 486-3600.*

Roundabouts Reduce Traffic Backups. The Insurance Institute of Highway Safety (IIHS) reports that a study conducted by researchers at Kansas State University found that roundabouts reduce delays. The study measured traffic flow at three intersections in Kansas, Maryland, and Nevada before and after conversion to roundabouts. A related survey shows that motorists' acceptance of roundabouts increases with experience. The report is available online at www.hwysafety.org/srpdfs/sr3607.pdf

The **PDCTC is ON-LINE**. The web site has information on who the PDCTC is, what we do, and projects we are working on. Check it out at www.dutchessny.gov/pdctc.htm. *Eoin Wrafter (845) 486-3600.*

Would you like to receive this update via email rather than snail mail? If so send an email to pdctc@co.dutchess.ny.us with Newsletter Subscription in the subject line. *Eoin Wrafter (845) 486-3600.*

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